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**Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations**

## Letter dated 26 September 2000 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for appropriate action by the Fifth Committee, a letter dated 25 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations concerning a request for exemption for his country under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations (see annex). Appendix 1 to the letter contains a letter from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Harri **Holkeri**
President of the General Assembly

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## Annex

### Letter dated 25 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan addressed to the President of the General Assembly

On the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to forward to you a letter from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Akil Akilov, dated 15 September 2000, regarding exemption of Tajikistan from the application of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations owing to the continuous economic and financial difficulties that the country is facing (see appendix 1).

(*Signed*) Rashid **Alimov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

## Appendix I

### Letter dated 15 September 2000 from the Prime Minister of Tajikistan addressed to the President of the General Assembly

First of all, permit me to express my profoundest gratitude to the United Nations and to you personally for the understanding and support given to my country.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, sharing the concern of the United Nations regarding the Republic's contributions to the United Nations regular budget, intends to adhere to its obligations in connection with the payment of the Republic's share and will, as far as it can, make every effort to achieve that end.

The Republic of Tajikistan's contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations from March 1992 to 2000 were set at US$ 2,324,754. The actual amount paid by the Government over that period is $919,756.

In addition to that amount, the sum of $46,000 has been paid out of the Working Capital Fund, which was specially established for developing and newly independent countries, together with $2,555 bank charges. The total paid by the Republic of Tajikistan therefore amounts to $968,311.

Unfortunately, the country's economic situation, resulting from the consequences of a long period of armed civil conflict in which over 50,000 people died and material damage amounting to over $7 billion was sustained, makes it impossible at present for the Republic of Tajikistan's assessed contributions for previous years and for the current financial year to be paid in full and on time.

During the years 1992 and 1993, about a million people became refugees or displaced persons. Many settlements were completely destroyed and the damage suffered by dwellings, infrastructure, industry and agriculture reached catastrophic proportions.

On the conclusion of the military activity, which had been extensive, the efforts of the Government of the Republic were directed at mitigating the social consequences of these upheavals. Substantial financial and material expenditure was required for the return of an enormous number of refugees to their previous places of residence and for the restoration of dwellings, schools, hospitals and other buildings.

In addition, the territory of the Republic has been struck by one natural disaster after another, including mountain torrents and landslides. Considerable expenditure is required to deal with their consequences, despite the country's extremely limited financial resources.

In 1999 the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan suffered a whole series of natural disasters. As a result of torrents, avalanches, landslides and floods, there were 12,992 casualties, including 37 deaths.

Damage was sustained by 125 schools and pre-school institutions, 25 hospitals and health centres and 76 cultural institutions. In addition, 122 bridges, 1,179.1 kilometres of roads, 349.1 kilometres of electricity lines and 90.8 kilometres of communications lines were damaged or destroyed.

The total damage caused by natural disasters to the economy of the Republic during 1999 alone is estimated at US$ 19 million.

A drought, unprecedented during the twentieth century, has persisted throughout the spring and summer of this year over the whole territory of my country. Between 30 per cent and 50 per cent of the grain harvest has failed. According to estimates by the World Food Programme, approximately 3 million people — that is, half the country's population — are suffering a serious shortage of food products.

The fall of cotton, aluminium and tobacco prices on the world market has also had an inevitable effect on the Republic's economy, since the country's export potential is based on these raw products.

It should also be noted that the gross domestic product per capita of the Republic is the lowest among the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The budget deficit, which is largely financed from foreign loans, remains substantial.

At the same time, enormous progress has been made over the past five years in extending economic reform, restructuring the national economy, strengthening and developing international contacts and integrating closely with the world economy.

One of the most important factors in achieving the country's economic and political sovereignty and in strengthening economic reform was the introduction of a national currency, which enabled the Republic to establish its own credit and monetary policy. A currency market has started to operate in the country. Price liberalization has taken place. At the same time, the institutional reorganization necessary for the functioning of a multi-structured economy is being carried out.

With support from international institutions, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan is taking measures directed at macroeconomic stabilization. In the very near future, this will make it possible to provide the population with greater opportunities to satisfy their most urgent living requirements and to give assistance to those categories of citizens belonging to the poorest sections of the population.

On the basis of the modest revenue available from the State budget during the current period, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan has paid $65,250.76 of the Republic's contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations.

In that connection, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan encloses a plan for the phased reduction of its arrears to the regular budget of the United Nations, which amount to $1,356,443 as at 1 August 2000. We would be extremely grateful if the Committee would accept our proposal.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan requests that the Republic's arrears in relation to its contributions to the United Nations regular budget up to 1 September 2000 be considered as having been caused by circumstances beyond the Republic's control and that implementation of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations should be postponed to the end of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan wishes to express in advance its gratitude to the United Nations and hopes for support and understanding in connection with this issue.

(*Signed*) Akil **Akilov**

## Appendix 2

### Plan for the phased reduction of the arrears of the Republic of Tajikistan to the regular budget of the United Nations

| *Year* | *Percentage* | *Amount (US$)* | *Additional yearly contribution* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 5 | 67 822 | - |
| 2002 | 5 | 67 822 | - |
| 2003 | 5 | 67 822 | - |
| 2004 | 5 | 67 822 | - |
| 2005 | 5 | 67 822 | - |
| 2006 | 15 | 203 466 | - |
| 2007 | 15 | 203 466 | - |
| 2008 | 15 | 203 467 | - |
| 2009 | 15 | 203 467 | - |
| 2010 | 15 | 203 467 | - |
| **Total** | **100** | **1 356 443** | - |